



# **YOUTH HEADING HOUSEHOLDS: HOW COMMUNITIES CAN BEST SUPPORT THEM TO CARE FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY **HIV & AIDS**.**

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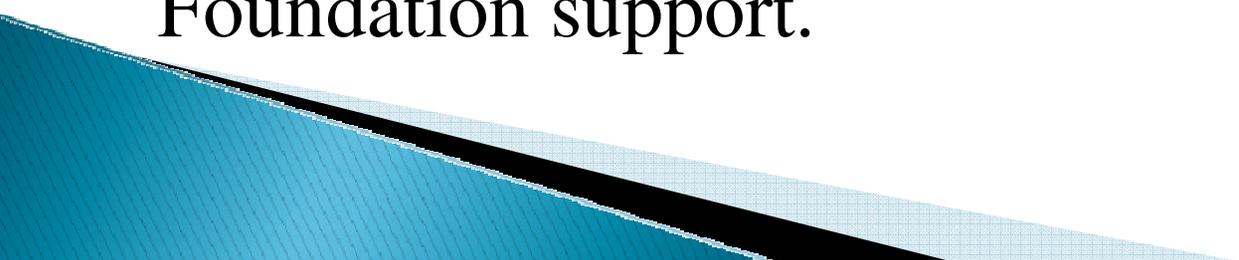
BAMPOREZE ASSOCIATION

KIGALI -RWANDA

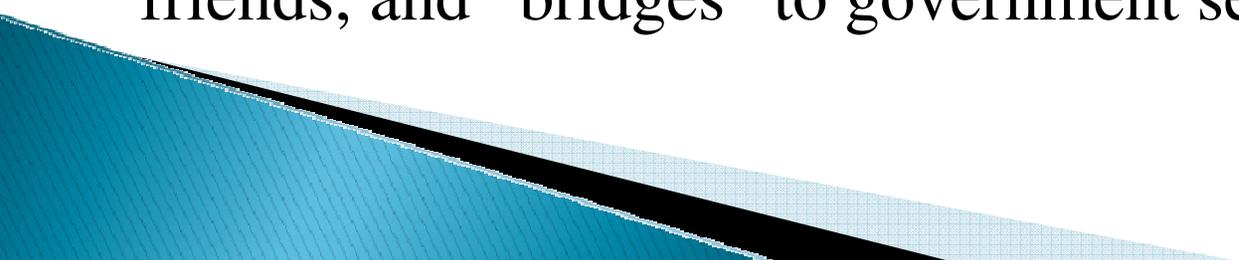
# The Rwandan post genocide context

- ❑ The tragic event of 1994 Tutsi genocide in Rwanda leaved several consequences including :
  - more than 800,000 people killed;
  - more than 400,000 orphans without anyone to take care of them;
  - Increasing number of street children;
  - Tremendous increase of orphans with the increasing threat of HIV/AIDS;
  - Women and girls raped;
  - Houses and infrastructures destroyed ;
  - Moral crisis: love, trust and consideration for others lost;
  - The entire society became traumatized;

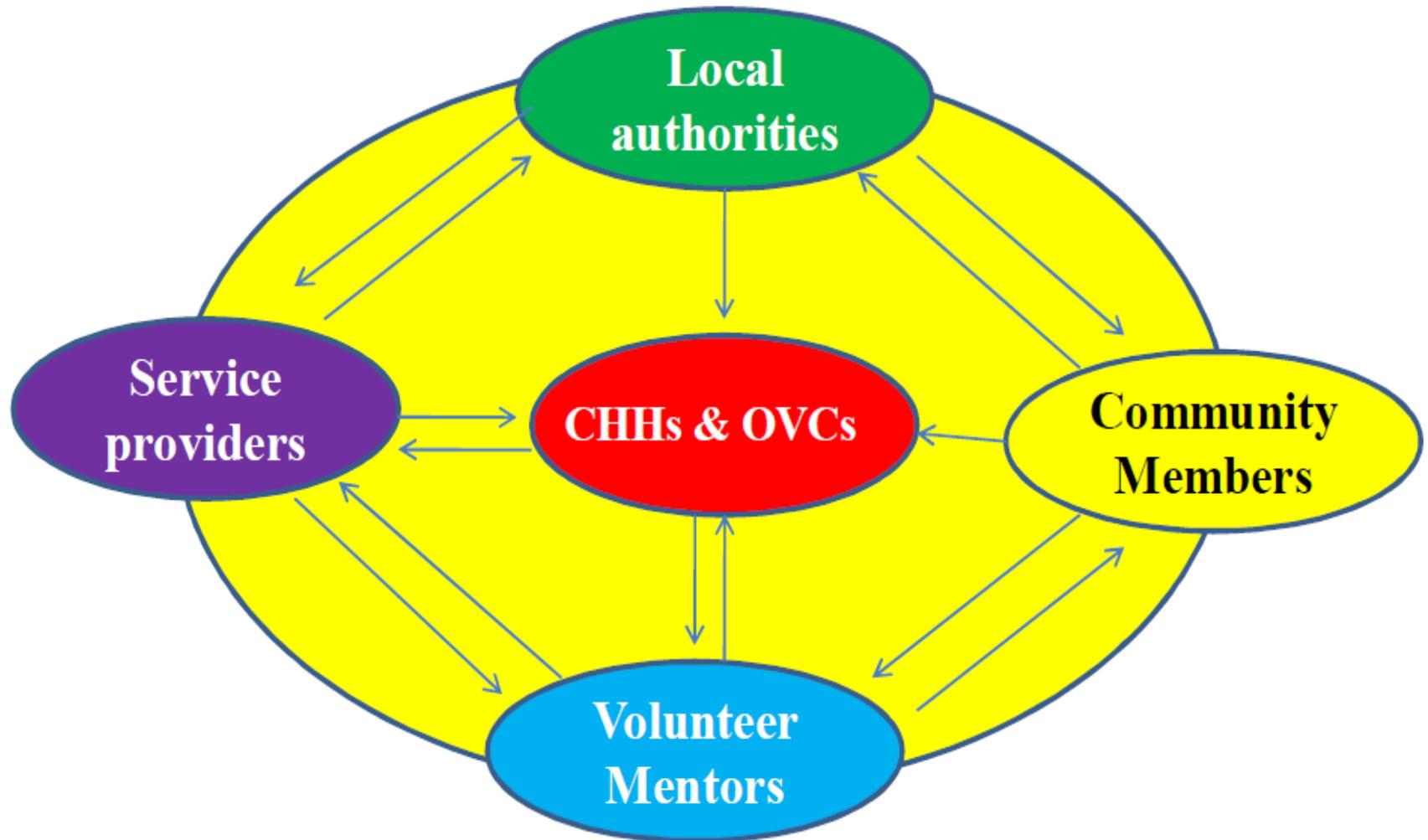
# BAMPOREZE ASSOCIATIONS' INITIATIVES

- ▶ Since the beginning, BA.A targeted OVCs in general and particularly Child Headed Households.
  - ▶ The main areas of intervention were housing, education, health , TVET, IGA and capacity building.
  - ▶ Despite efforts deployed, we realized that CHHs do not improve their living conditions within sustainable manner :
  - ▶ In response to this complex situation, Bamporeze Association initiated the “Community Child Mentorship Model” in 2001 with UNICEF Rwanda and Firelight Foundation support.
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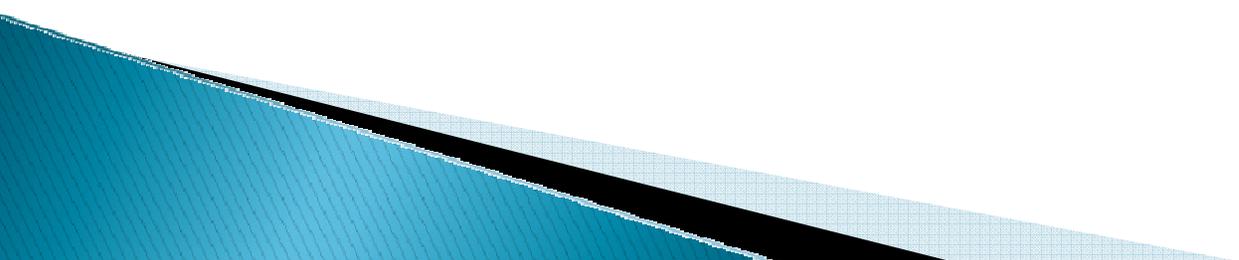
# COMMUNITY OVCS' MENTORSHIP APPROACH AS RESPONSE TO HIV & AIDS

- ❑ Community “mentorship” approach aims to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable children in child headed household and reducing OVCs vulnerabilities to HIV and AIDS.
  - ❑ The model involves the whole community, volunteer mentors, local authorities service providers and the children themselves to realize the rights of OVC.
  - ❑ CHHs choose themselves mentors who are approved by the community members and act as a teacher, advocate, counselors, friends, and “bridges” to government services.
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# BAMPOREZE'S "MENTORSHIP" APPROACH



# Developing the Relationship

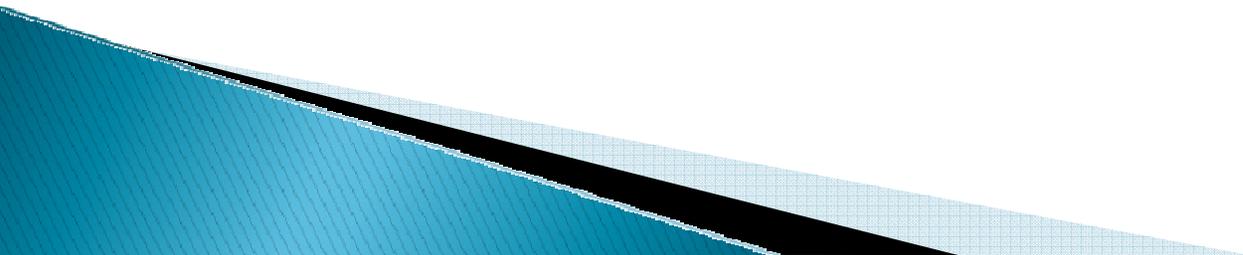
- ▶ Child chooses the community member to be their mentor
  - ▶ Community leaders and community members meet to review the selection of the mentor
  - ▶ If the community agrees that the mentor has integrity, they give their blessing to the relationship
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# Mentor advising a young girl

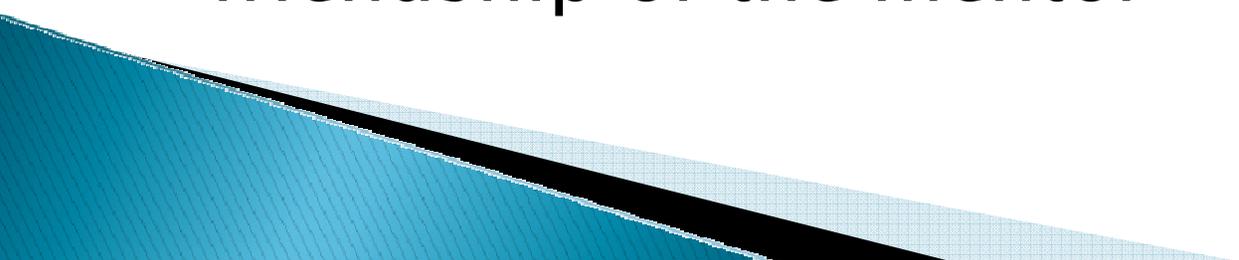


# Training of Children

- ▶ The objective is to help to re-establish relationships with adults in a caregiving role

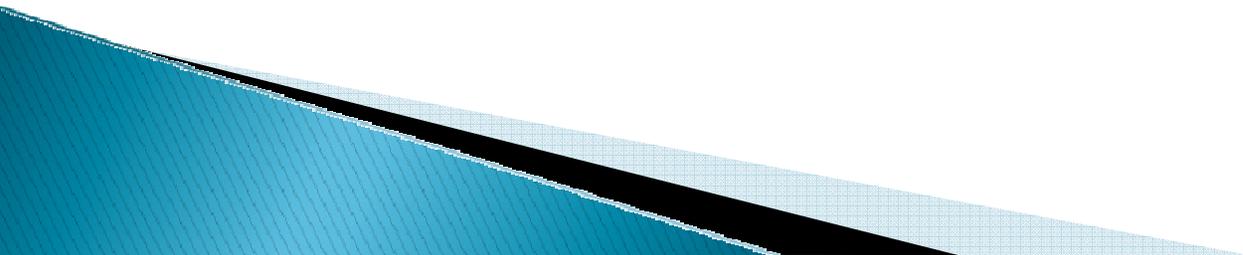


# Training of Children

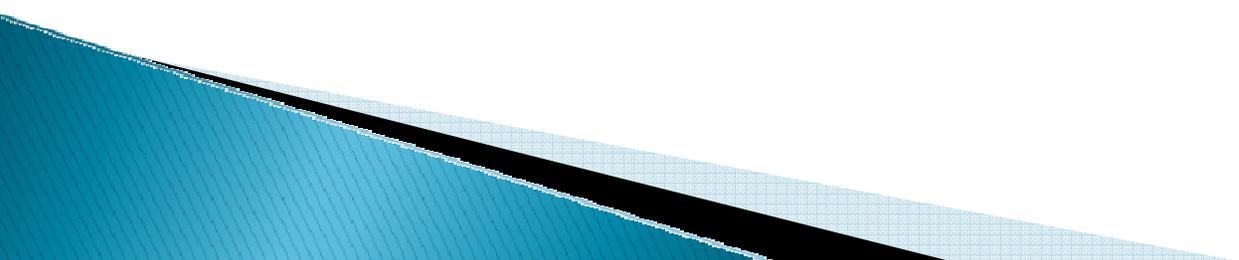
- ▶ Children have been heads of households for an extended period
  - ▶ They are not accustomed to having adult care, support or supervision
  - ▶ Training helps the children to understand the role of the mentor and how the relationship can help them
  - ▶ Also helps the child to accept love and friendship of the mentor
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# Training of Mentors

- ▶ The objective is to help mentors to understand the problems facing child-headed households



# Training of Mentors

- ▶ Training focuses:
    - on how to approach children
    - how to conduct themselves in the relationship – giving love, advice, care and support
    - understanding the needs of the child-headed households
    - approaches to solving problems
    - communications with the entire family in the household
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# House of a child before mentorship programme

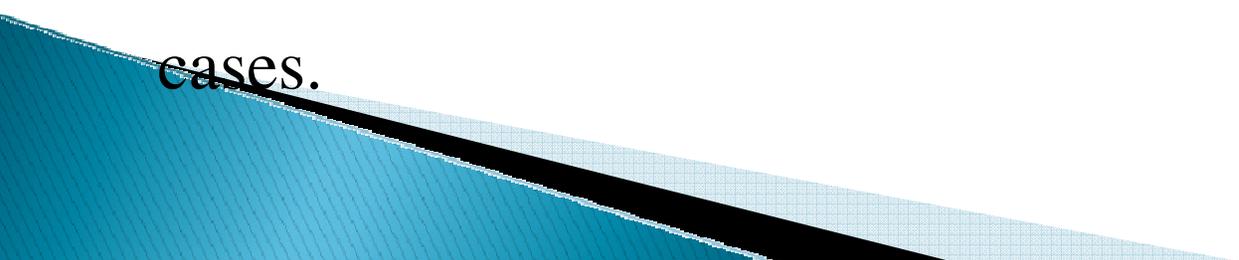


# Child living with HIV and unplanned pregnancy living with siblings only



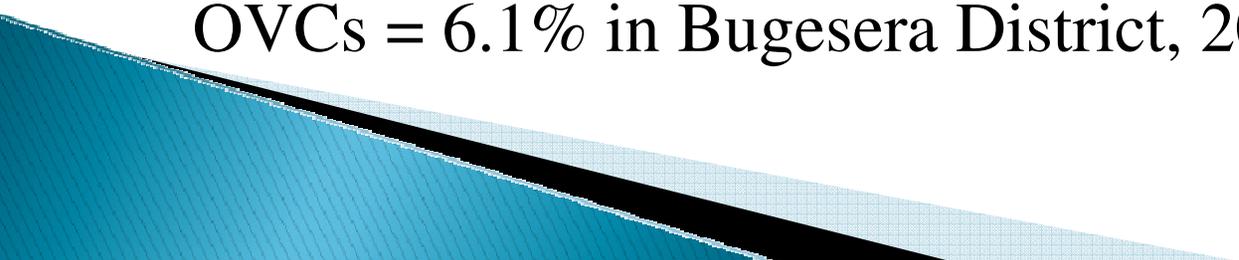
# Situation analysis :

## Before the mentorship approach

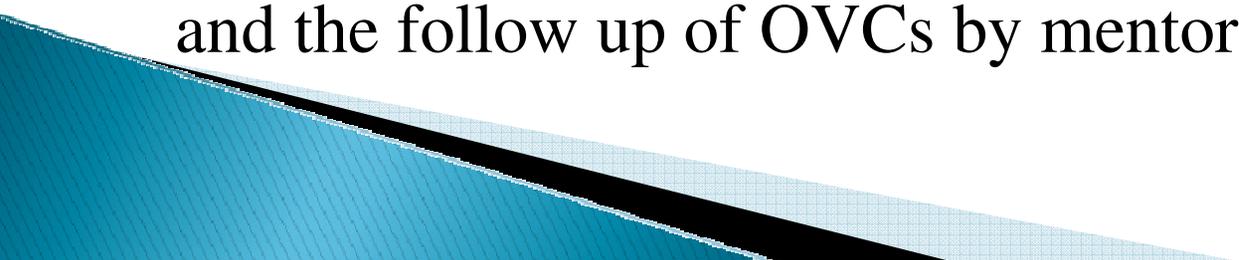
- **Little success and sustainability of income Generating Activities supported for OVCs (30%):** Unadvised and unsupervised children still thinking and doing as children.
  - **Unwanted pregnancies among girls headed households (11%):** They were abused sexually due to many reasons: survival means/economic status, no respect of their households; and they were uneducated.
  - **Lack of hope for the future:** Children faced many challenges: food insecurity, inaccessibility to health care; poor enrollment in Primary and secondary school, problems of housing; properties abuse and isolation which increased also the number of trauma cases.
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# **Situation analysis :**

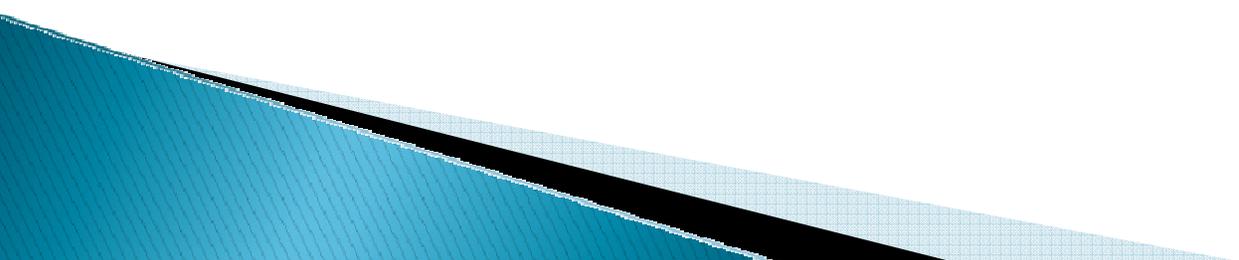
## **Before the OVCs' mentorship program**

- ▶ **Poor performance of OVCs in primary and secondary schools** due to many reasons including lack of supervision, parental guidance, encouragement from adults, lack of school material as well as food insecurity within child Headed Household.
  - ▶ **Juvenile delinquency** leading to misbehaviors among OVCs drugs abuse, robbery, street children...
  - ▶ **High prevalence of HIV infection among OVCs** (92/1500 OVCs = 6.1% in Bugesera District, 2006 )
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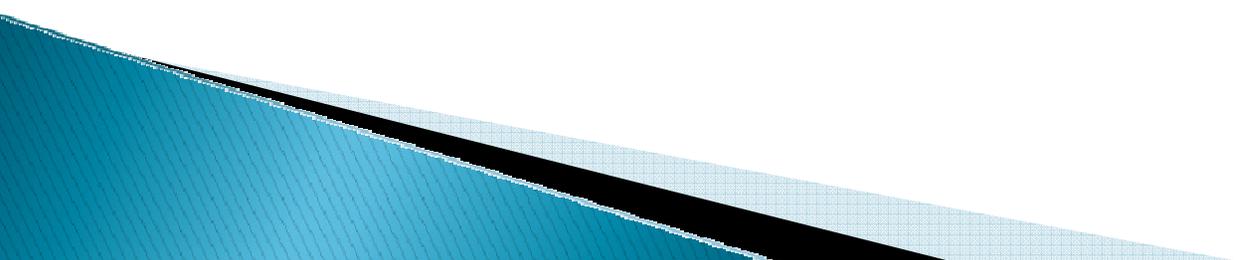
# IMPACT OF OVCs MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- ▶ **Improvement of their standard of living and sustainability of IGA for OVCs ( from 30% to 70% : evaluation done in 2010 )** : The mentors advise and ensure regularly supervision to OVCs for the good management of IGA.
  - ▶ **Reduction of undesired pregnancies among girls headed household ( from 11% to 4% : evaluation done in 2010)**: improvement in education and follow up of OVCs by mentors.
  - ▶ **Improvement of OVC enrollment in Primary ( from 66% to 92% in 2010)** and secondary school (from 12% to 18% in 2010): A conducive political environment = nine years basic education and the follow up of OVCs by mentors.
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# IMPACT OF OVCs MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME (con'd)

- ▶ **Increased access to health care (80%)**: Mutual health insurance
  - ▶ **Improvement of the livelihood of 12,840 OVCs** : IGAs, TVET enable OVCs to fulfill their basic needs: Food, clothes, soap....
  - ▶ **2,143 OVCs** are regrouped into cooperatives and they are producing.
  - ▶ **Reduction in number of cases of trauma** (from average of 29% cases of trauma per year to 8 case of trauma : evaluation done in 2010)
  - ▶ **Reduction of HIV prevalence rate** among OVCs
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# LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ OVCs realize fully their rights when the community is fully engaged to protect them;
  - ▶ Revaluing the cultural norms in terms of taking care of children: love, trust, generosity, integrity and rationality; is an essential component for the sustainability of mentorship approach.
  - ▶ Conducive political environment is a prerequisite to enable Orphans and Vulnerable children to fully enjoy their rights.
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▶ **THANK YOU**

